

1

Date May 13, 1964

EVARISTO GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ, whose name as used in Cuba and other Latin American countries would include his mother's maiden name of ORTEGA, i.e., EVARISTO GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ-ORTEGA, in response to a request made to him on May 11, 1964, voluntarily appeared at the New Orleans Office on May 12, 1964, and furnished the following information:

RODRIGUEZ related that approximately in September, 1963, LEE HARVEY OSWALD was observed by him in the Habana Bar, 117 Decatur Street. He explained this statement as follows:

As best he could recall it was in September, 1963, at approximately 3:30 a.m. or 4:00 a.m., day of the week not recalled, that two white males entered the Habana Bar and sat at a table opposite the center of the bar, both facing the entrance to the bar on Decatur Street.

According to RODRIGUEZ based on photographs he had seen of LEE HARVEY OSWALD after the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY he was able to state that one of these two men he has described above was in his opinion LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He related that the person he believes to be OSWALD who entered the bar as stated above was accompanied by a white male, age about 32, a little taller than OSWALD and perhaps a little heavier than OSWALD. He described this man as being about 5'7", medium build with muscular biceps. He explained that this man was wearing a sleeveless slip-on vest-like sweater, blue in color and was wearing a white, long sleeve business shirt with a tie, the color of which he does not recall. He was wearing a light sport coat which appeared to have a base color of grey interspersed with dull red lines, checkered in appearance. This man was wearing white pants, was light complexioned, wore no hat and no glasses. RODRIGUEZ was unable to recall the color of this man's hair; however, he did recall that he was able to speak Spanish very well. RODRIGUEZ was not able to state whether this man was Mexican, Cuban, Argentine or a national of any other Spanish speaking country. He related that the

On 5/12/64 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601

by SA WARREN C. DEBRULYS and
SA RICHARD E. LOGAN :gas Date dictated 5/13/64

NO 100-16601
WCD:REL:gas

person he believed to be OSWALD wore a short sleeve white sport shirt with an open collar, dark pants. He wore no glasses and no hat and apparently spoke no Spanish.

RODRIGUEZ then related that when these two persons entered the Habana Bar the party he believes was identical with LEE HARVEY OSWALD gave the appearance of being drunk and was assisted to the above mentioned table opposite the bar by the man that accompanied him. RODRIGUEZ related that the man who accompanied the person he believes was OSWALD was seated on the side of the table closer to the bar and the party he shall refer to hereinafter as OSWALD was seated closer to the wall opposite the bar. At that time the owner of the bar, ORESTES PENA, was seated at the far end of the bar also facing the entrance on Decatur Street and from this position PENA could observe the backs of the party believed to be OSWALD and his friend.

RODRIGUEZ related that the man with "OSWALD" ordered a tequila in Spanish. RODRIGUEZ carried the tequila to the table where "OSWALD" and his companion were seated and gave the tequila to "OSWALD's" companion and told him "That will be 50 cents." "OSWALD's" companion who spoke Spanish asked RODRIGUEZ in Spanish who the owner was. RODRIGUEZ replied "He is a Cuban but an American citizen." RODRIGUEZ claims that "OSWALD's" companion then stated that "He is an imperialist or a capitalist." RODRIGUEZ claims he advised this man that he is an American who lives off of his business.

According to RODRIGUEZ all the conversation was in Spanish with "OSWALD's" companion. While he was having the described discussion with "OSWALD's" companion, "OSWALD" had begun to drink the tequila which was ordered by his companion and "OSWALD" had commenced to vomit after drinking a half portion of the tequila. "OSWALD's" companion attempted to assist "OSWALD" and ordered a lemonade. RODRIGUEZ claims he walked to the far end of the bar and spoke to ORESTES PENA advising "these two men" wanted a lemonade, and RODRIGUEZ

ENCLOSURE

NO 100-16601
WCD;REL:gas

mentioned to ORESTES PENA "we don't make lemonades here." RODRIGUEZ then said ORESTES told him to go ahead and make the lemonade with some lemons, sugar and water. RODRIGUEZ claims he went immediately behind the bar and made the lemonade and as he was carrying the lemonade back to the table, stopped at the end of the bar and asked ORESTES how much should he charge for the lemonade and ORESTES advised him "25 cents." RODRIGUEZ claims he carried the lemonade to the table where "OSWALD" and his companion were seated and gave the lemonade to "OSWALD's" companion and speaking to him in Spanish told him that the lemonade was 25 cents and the latter gave him 25 cents. Immediately thereafter "OSWALD" and his companion stood up at the table and "OSWALD" assisted by his companion left the Habana Bar and while leaving "OSWALD's" companion said in Spanish that "the bar will be closed tomorrow." About three or four days later in the afternoon when EVARISTO RODRIGUEZ was returning from a call to see a doctor with ORESTES PENA they drove to Canal Street apparently on Carondelet Street and had turned right on Canal Street and headed towards the Mississippi River. It was at that time that RODRIGUEZ and PENA observed a congregation of people located in front of a theater on Canal Street between St. Charles and the next street closer to the river from St. Charles. In this group of people RODRIGUEZ observed CARLOS BRINGUIER talking to two policemen. He also observed two police cars and a white male entering one of the two police cars. Also on the sidewalk were scattered some yellow handbills. RODRIGUEZ stated that ORESTES PENA was driving his 1959 Mercury yellow four-door sedan and proceeded without stopping to observe the congregation any further. He stated that this is all he recalls about this incident on Canal Street.

On the following day about 12:30 p.m., CARLOS BRINGUIER came into the Habana Bar and advised RUPERTO PENA and ARMANDA JARVIS, the barmaid, that he, CARLOS BRINGUIER, had been in some difficulty with a pro-CASTRO individual who

ENCLOSURE

4
NO 100-16601

WCD,REL:gas

was distributing handbills on Canal Street. RODRIGUEZ mentioned, however, that at that time he did not know the man with whom BRINGUIER had difficulty on Canal Street was LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He stated that he now assumes that the white male getting in the police car at the time of the incident on Canal Street was LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

RODRIGUEZ explained that after President KENNEDY was assassinated the picture of LEE HARVEY OSWALD appeared on television and in the local newspapers. He believes that this occurred on the day after President KENNEDY was assassinated and that on the afternoon of that same day after seeing the picture of LEE HARVEY OSWALD he told CARLOS BRINGUIER that "OSWALD" had been in the bar previously and told him the story about "OSWALD" being in the bar with an unknown male that spoke Spanish and about "OSWALD" vomiting in the bar as he, RODRIGUEZ, has outlined the story during this interview.

RODRIGUEZ specifically stated that he never told BRINGUIER or anyone that the man who was in the Habana Bar with a person he believed identical with LEE HARVEY OSWALD was being sought by the FBI. He states he knows that he could not have made such a statement because he had no information at any time that the man he described above as being with "OSWALD" at the Habana Bar was wanted by the FBI. In fact he, RODRIGUEZ, had not been talked to by any FBI Agent prior to the date of the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

RODRIGUEZ was unable to recall what persons were in the Habana Bar on the morning that he allegedly saw "OSWALD" and a companion of "OSWALD's" in the Habana Bar other than ORESTES PENA. He reiterated that the person he believed to be identical with OSWALD was definitely drunk. This was the only occasion he had seen the man he believed to be OSWALD and the man that accompanied the latter except possibly on the occasion of the incident on Canal Street when he saw a man entering the police car who could have been LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

5

NO 100-16601
WCD,REL:gas

RODRIGUEZ was shown three photographs depicting LEE HARVEY OSWALD distributing handbills in front of the International Trade Mart, New Orleans, which photographs also included numerous other persons. The only person that RODRIGUEZ was able to identify in these photographs as someone he has seen previously was LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He claimed that he did not know the identity of any of the other persons in the photographs nor had he seen any of them previously.

RODRIGUEZ furnished the following background information regarding himself:

Name	EVARISTO GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ, or EVARISTO GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ-ORTEGA
Alien Registration No.	A 15 391 N15
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	7/26/41
Place of Birth	Gibara, Oriente, Cuba
Height	5'7"
Weight	153 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Olive
Marital Status	Married
Wife	MARIA IRENE ORDAS CANTREIRA, aka. MARIA RODAS de RODRIGUEZ, age 27
Residence	1239 Chartres Street, upstairs.
Nationality of Wife	Guatemalan
Date of Arrival in United States	1959 as seaman
Date of Arrival in United States as Resident Alien	January, 1963
Selective Service No.	10-133-41-325, Local Board No. 133.

6

NO 100-16601
WCD,REL:gas

RODRIGUEZ claimed to have been a seaman aboard the S.S. BARCELONA which sunk in the Gulf of Mexico, January 3, 1963; was picked up by a vessel named San Jose and taken to Costa Rica and subsequently returned to the United States by the firm which owned the S.S. BARCELONA.

RODRIGUEZ claimed he was never a member of the CASTRO government or the militia in Cuba; he claimed to be anti-CASTRO.